United Nations E/C.2/2009/2/Add.19

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
9 March 2009

Original: English

Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
2009 resumed session
18-27 May 2009

Quadrennial reports for the period 2004-2007 submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council through the Secretary-General pursuant to Council resolution 1996/31*

Note by the Secretary-General

Contents

		Page
1.	European Intermodal Association	2
2.	Guyana Responsible Parenthood Association	3
3.	International Astronautical Federation	4
4.	Médecins sans frontières (international)	6
5.	Research Centre for Feminist Action	8
6.	Research Institute for Enhancing Women's Lives	11

* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

09-25913 (E) 020409

Please recycle

1. European Intermodal Association (Special; 1996)

1. Part 1 – Introduction:

i) The aim of European Intermodal Association:

According to its statutes the mission of the European Intermodal Association (EIA) is promotion, development and improvement of the intermodal transport. From the beginning of its activities in 1993 EIA followed the intention to develop the transport chain further towards a logistic supply chain connecting all modes of transport. Consequently its members come from all sectors of the transport business. EIA is satisfied that the intermodal "philosophy" has now found the way into the centre of the modern transport policy. On this way EIA has always supported the international decision makers in European Union, The European Conference of Ministers of Transport (CEMT) and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE) in their effort to pave the way to this target, particularly under the aspect of the sustainability of our transport system in the times of globalization and the environmental concern. EIA participates regularly in the hearings and meetings of these organizations and takes often the initiative for "bridging the gap" between the political and the professional world. Its positions are not determined by the particular interests of the various modes but by a concern for the overall interests of the transport and economic system with respect to the commercial interests of its members.

2. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings.

During the reporting period activities were as follows: (i) 28-30 April 2004, Paris, UN/ECE, European Commission – Directorate General Enlargement, International Union for Railway (UIC), Community of European Railways (CER) Seminar on Regionalization of Passenger Services; Contracting, financing and related aspects; (ii) 17 December 2004, Geneva, Inland Transport Committee; (iii) 29-30 March 2006 and 5-6 March 2007, Geneva, Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP 24); (iv) 3-4 October 2006 Paris, CEMT/OECD Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP 24).

3. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals and Global Principles.

The organization contributed to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Global Principles in Europe. Its purpose was to encourage and support the efforts of its members to improve and develop intermodal transport in Europe; an innovative technology, which seeks to reconcile through intermodality the requirements of swift, safe and economic movement of goods with the need to preserve the environment, quality of life and competitiveness. Major actions undertaken were the following:

Ensure environmental sustainability (Goal 7):

Target 1: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources.

Global principles in the environment:

Principle 7: Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;
Principle 8: undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and
Principle 9: encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

Actions:

Promit – Promoting Innovative Intermodal Freight Transport
EIRAC- European Intermodal Research Advisory Council
eWIT- Web-based Intermodal Inland Waterway Transport Training for Europe
REALISE- Regional Action for Logistical Integration of Shipping across Europe

2. Guyana Responsible Parenthood Association (Special; 2000)

Part 1 - Introduction:

i. The Aims and Objectives

The Association believing that knowledge of sexual and reproductive health and access to a broad range of services are fundamental human rights, and that a balance between the population of the world and its natural resources and productivity is a necessary condition of human happiness, prosperity and peace, has identified the following objectives: (a) advocate for the basic human right of all women, men and young people to make free and informed choices regarding their own sexual and reproductive health and also to advocate for the means to exercise this right; (b) leading Non-Governmental Organization providing sexual and reproductive health services, including family planning and STIs/HIV/AIDS services in Guyana; (c) increase and safeguard recognition of the basic human rights of the client, to make free and informed choices, with no coercion and without use of any incentives or disincentives; (d) promote and expand Family Planning services to all ten Regions of Guyana, by addressing unmet needs and demands through information, education, advocacy and training for services provided by the Association; (e) establish and strengthen systems of networking with support organizations in order to enhance and make appropriate Sexual and Reproductive Health and Family Planning services available and accessible to all clients, and provide necessary training to Professional Workers; (f) develop strategies for maintaining high-quality services, through the implementation of programmes and income generating activities that would guarantee sustainability and reduce dependence on external agencies; (g) develop and maintain relationships in all those national, regional and international agencies whose aims and objectives are similar or consistent with ours.

Expanded Areas of Activities:

No major administrative or programmatic change has been made during the reporting period.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

During the reporting period representatives of GRPA attended the following meetings at the United Nations Headquarters, New York:

2005: Beijing + 10 Conference: 49th Session of the Commission of the Status of Women, 28 February to 1 March; and the 58th Annual DPI/NGO Conference, 7-9 September.

2006: 50th Session of the Commission of the Status of Women, 27 February – 19 March; and the 59th Annual DPI/NGO Conference in September.

2007: 51st Session of the Commission of the Status of Women, 26 February – 9 March; and the 60th Annual DPI/NGO Conference, 5-7 September.

Apart from attending and participating in the different meetings and sessions at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, representatives (Volunteers and paid Staff) of the Association were actively involved in attending meetings, workshops, seminars and conferences nationally and regionally.

Over the past eight years, the GRPA has benefited immensely from the Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. As such we will do all within our power to ensure that we maintain this excellent work relationship with the Economic and Social Council so that our clients and by extension the people of Guyana will continue to benefit especially in the area of the quality of life that they would experience.

3. International Astronautical Federation (Special; 1964)

Part 1 - Introduction

The International Astronautical Federation (IAF) is a non-governmental organization of national societies and institutions interested in rocketry and the development of space exploration. The purposes of the Federation, as set in the Constitution, are: (a) Establish, maintain and further develop a global network for the benefit of its members; (b) Foster and support the activities of the International Institute of Space Law; (c) Organize international astronautical congresses, symposia, workshops, training and educational programs and other events; (d) Assist its members to promote their space activities and products; (e) Produce publications and position papers on space related matters; (f) Cooperate and advise with appropriate international and national institutions, universities, commercial enterprises, service providers and individual experts on all aspects related to space activities; (g) Use the various media to stimulate public interest in and support for the development of all aspects of space activities; (h) Encourage, as appropriate, the

development of entities related to space activities; (i) Recognize individuals and IAF members for outstanding performance or achievements; (j) Encourage the participation of students in events mentioned in Article 2(c).

II Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations:

The Federation maintains close contacts with the United Nations and several other international organizations of the United Nations system concerned with astronautics and the peaceful uses of outer space. Since 1976 the Federation has had observer status with the United Nations Committee for the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS). In this capacity, the Federation has regularly participated in COPUOS sessions, as well as the sessions of its two subcommittees, the Scientific and Technical one, and the Legal one (being represented by IISL).

In recent years, the cooperation between the Federation and the United Nations has been growing steadily. The Federation continued to prepare the annual reports on the development of space technology: "Highlights in Space Report".

Since 1985, the Federation was invited to organize every year during the session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of COPUOS, together with the Committee on space Research (COSPAR), symposia on specific topics.

Last four years Symposia have been: 40th Applications of satellite navigation and their benefits to developing countries (WEO) (2003), no symposium was held in 2004 as it was decided to have only one symposium, namely industry. 42nd High Resolution and Hyper spectral Satellite data integration for precision farming, environmental monitoring and possible new applications (2005), No symposium in 2006.

Change in the IAF/COSPAR Symposium: In 2007 The Working Group of the Whole accepted a proposal, for a new approach in organizing the annual symposium of the IAF and COSPAR, (A/AC.105/C.1/2007/CRP.13). Accordingly, the symposium to strengthen the partnership with industry (the industry symposium), organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat, would be held every other year. In the years when the industry symposium would not be held, IAF and COSPAR would alternate in organizing a symposium. Prior to the beginning of each session of the Subcommittee, the organization responsible for organizing the next symposium would provide several potential topics for consideration by the Working Group. On the basis of those proposals, the Working Group would select the topic. The industry symposium would be held during the 45th session of the Subcommittee. IAF would organize a symposium during the 46th session of the Subcommittee.

United Nations/International Astronautical Federation (UN/IAF) Workshop As a pre-congress activity, the IAF organized together with the Office of Space Applications, the UN/IAF Workshop. The Workshop brought together space experts with policy and decision-makers from developing countries. This workshop aimed at showing that space activities are a cost-effective tool for developing and emerging nations.

Last four years, the UN/IAF workshops have been dealing with the following subjects: (i) "Education and Capacity Building in Space Technology for the Benefit of Developing Countries" with emphasis on remote sensing applications, Bremen, Germany, 25 - 27 September 2003; (ii) Use of Space Technology for the Benefit of Developing Countries, October 2004 Vancouver, Canada, reviewed a number of capacity building initiatives in the area of disaster management and education that were being carried out by various entities through international cooperation and looked for ways to build synergies among them; (iii) Space Education and Capacity Building for Sustainable Development, October 2005, Kitakyushu, Japan. The objective of the workshop reviewed a number of educational and capacity-building initiatives being carried out by various entities through international cooperation and looked for ways to build synergies among them; (iv) Use of Space Technology for Water Management, 29-30 September 2006 Valencia, Spain, increased awareness among decision makers and academic community of space technology applications for improving water resource management in developing countries, as well as to promote educational and public awareness initiatives and to strengthen international and regional cooperation in these areas.

Furthermore, the Federation has category B Consultative status with United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), consultative Status with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and maintains official relations with the World Health Organization (WHO). Moreover, the Federation has good working relations with other international non-governmental organizations and has a major priority to enlarge this network to other organizations dealing directly or indirectly with space.

Partnership with UNESCO: On 21 March 2007, The International Astronautical Federation (IAF) signed the UNESCO initiative in the area of remote sensing known as the Open Initiative on the use of space technologies to monitor natural and cultural heritage of UNESCO sites.

4. Médecins sans frontières (international) (General; 2000)

Part I - Introduction:

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is an international medical humanitarian organization created in 1971 that provides aid in 60 countries to people who survival is threatened by violence, neglect or catastrophe, primarily due to armed conflict, epidemics, malnutrition, exclusion from health care or natural disasters. MSF is a strictly humanitarian non-governmental organization independent from any political, economic, military or religious agenda and its assistance is based on the principles of impartiality and neutrality, as well as medical ethics. 89% of MSF's overall funding comes from private sources (more than 3 million individual donors and private funders worldwide). MSF unites direct medical care with a commitment to bearing witness to the plight of the people it assists. More than 27,000 national and international staff (doctors, nurses, logistic experts, administrators, epidemiologists, mental health professionals, etc.) representing dozens of nationalities provide assistance to populations in need around the world. MSF was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1999.

MSF is an international movement made up of 19 associative organizations: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Holland, Italy, Japan, Luxemburg, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. The International Office, created in 1991 and based in Geneva, ensures the coherence of the movement and oversees the liaison activities undertaken in Geneva and New York with the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations (African Union, European Union, ASEAN, League of Arab States, etc.).

Part II

MSF's General Consultative Status granted in 2000, has been instrumental to facilitate its humanitarian diplomacy towards the United Nations. This humanitarian diplomacy aims at supporting the implementation of MSF's medical and humanitarian mission in the field, defending the independence of MSF and the neutrality, impartiality and strictly humanitarian character of its relief operations and ensuring a transparent dialogue with all relevant actors of the aid system on a wide range of humanitarian issues: the lack of access and assistance to populations in need, violence against civilians in armed conflicts, assistance and protection of refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDP), the sense and limits of MSF's action, obstacles to MSF's medical mission, the access to essential medicines and/or diagnosis to better fight against malaria, HIV-AIDS, tuberculosis and malnutrition, respect and implementation of International Humanitarian Law, the security and safety of MSF's personnel, the politicization of aid.

While preserving its independence of analysis, action and means in light of the development of integration dynamics and the growing centralization of humanitarian coordination, MSF has reaffirmed the strategic character of its engagement with the United Nations system.

Between 2004 and 2007, MSF has continued its dialogue with the Economic and Social Council, the Security Council, the Secretariat (especially with Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and Department of Political Affairs (DPA)), the General Assembly (notably with the Office of the President) and United Nations member states. For instance, MSF was invited to speak on the 'Lessons learned from the Indian Ocean earthquake/Tsunami', during the Humanitarian Segment of ECOSOC, on 14 July 2005. MSF representatives also briefed the Security Council on the humanitarian situations in Darfur (2004 and 2005), Haiti (2005) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (2006), during 'Arria Formula' meetings.

While continuing to interact with key United Nations operational agencies and programs at the field level, MSF has also reinforced its strategic engagement at the headquarter level with World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and others.

During the reporting period (2004-2007), MSF has attended and organized numerous meetings, briefings and conferences both at the field and headquarter levels with United Nations officials and member states, to discuss cross-cutting issues, as well as the humanitarian situations and MSF operations in the following areas: Sudan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia, Chad, Central African Republic, Haiti, Sri Lanka, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Thailand, Pakistan, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Côte d'Ivoire, Palestine and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Angola, Colombia, Niger, Indonesia, Lebanon, Russian Federation, etc. For instance, MSF attended numerous weekly meetings of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee chaired by OCHA, several briefings with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia in 2007 and briefed several Humanitarian Coordinators/Resident Coordinators in 2005, 2006 and 2007. MSF also participated regularly to the annual sessions of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Executive Committee and attended the 'High-Level Conference on the Humanitarian needs of persons displaced within Iraq and across the country's borders' held in 2007 at the initiative of UNHCR.

Between 2004 and 2007, the Campaign for Access to Essential Medicines and the Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative, launched respectively by MSF in 1999 and 2003 to improve access to existing medical tools (medicines, diagnostics, vaccines) and to stimulate the development of urgently needed better tools for people in countries where MSF works, has continued its engagement and dialogue with Economic and Social Council and UNICEF, WHO, WFP etc. at the field and headquarter levels, on nutrition, malaria, sleeping sickness, HIV-AIDS and tuberculosis.

MSF has attended and organized numerous meetings and briefings with United Nations officials, notably to address the high cost of existing medicines and the absence of treatments for many of the diseases affecting its patients in the field. For instance, MSF actively participated to the XV International AIDS Conference held in Bangkok, in July 2004.

In 2006 and 2007, MSF has enhanced its dialogue with UNICEF, WFP and WHO on nutrition issues, especially to scale-up the use of therapeutic ready to use food for the most at risk children and increase research and development into a range of nutritional products adapted to these children's needs.

5. Research Centre for Feminist Action (Special; 2000)

Part I. Introduction

The Research Centre for Feminist Action (CIPAF), it's a feminist non-governmental organization (NGO), pioneer of women and girls rights in the Dominican Republic, Central America and the Caribbean since 1980. It has assume as historical mission to support the development of the women's movement, incorporating the importance of women for achieving full equality of women and men' the social justice, and promoting women as fundamental for development and democracy. The organization's courses of actions are: **gender and public Policies** (including gender and state reform, Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), ***Information and***

communication technology (ITCs), globalization and the united nations reform); **education and training** (including non-sexist education, education for peace and women rights, women's political participation, women and economic changes, training on labor rights and Corporate Social Responsibility); **information and communication** (thru social marketing, campaigning, publishing researches, materials and CIPAF's newspaper "Quehaceres"); **raising awareness** between stakeholders (at local, national, regional and international level); and measuring the **Impact** of our work in the country and the world.

CIPAF participated in meetings of the following bodies: (a) External Gender Consultative Group for the World Bank (until 2004); (b) Regional Initiative for the Social Responsibility and Fair Labour (2001-to present); (c) Task Force on Education and Gender Equality and the UN Millennium Project (until 2006); (d) Member of the Consultative Council of Civil Society for the Social Cabinet of the Dominican Government (2000-to present); (e) National Commission of the Information and Knowledge Society (2004-to present); (f) Champions Network of the Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development (GAID) of the United Nations (2006-to present)

Part II - Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations.

i. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings.

CIPAF has participated on the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in the years:

2004: The 48th session was held from 1 to 12 March 2004.

2005: its 49th session, held between 28 February and 11 March

2006: The 50th session held between 27 February and 10 March.

2007: The 51st session of the CSW took place from 26 February to 9 March.

CIPAF has participated in the last two sessions of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean:

2004: The 9th Session held in Mexico City, 10-12 June 2004.

2007: The 10th session held in Quito, Ecuador, 6-9 August.

CIPAF participated in the second phase of The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS):

2005: (i) Prep-Com 3; (ii) The second phase took place in Tunis from 16 to 18 November; (iii) CIPAF was a member of the official delegation from Dominican Republic; (iv) Millennium

Development Goals and Beijing Platform for Action: Challenges for the year 2005 in United Nations headquarters New York, 2-4 December

ii. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters.

Magaly Pineda, CIPAF's executive director is part of the Task Force 3 on Education and Gender Equality of the United Nations Millennium Project since 2002.

2006: Research for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). "Evolución e impacto de las políticas conciliatorias entre los ámbitos productivo y reproductivo y su relación con la igualdad de género y los presupuestos públicos, con especial énfasis en el tema de pobreza: Caso de República Dominicana".

United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (UN-INSTRAW): During the past years CIPAF have collaborate and developed joint work with the UN-INSTRAW. Since 1983 the UN-INSTRAW has been established in the Dominican Republic.

iii. Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of internationally agreed development goals.

CIPAF is part of the Task Force on Education and Gender Equality of the United Nations Millennium Project.

CIPAF represents The Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP) in the Dominican Republic since it began, in the year 2005. GCAP is the world's largest anti-poverty civil society alliance of social movements, international NGOs, trade unions, community groups, women's organizations, faith and youth groups, local associations, and campaigners working together across more than 100 national coalition/platforms. GCAP challenges governments to achieve and exceed the Millennium Development Goals as well as protect and promote the rights of all to a decent and dignified life.

Activities in support of Global Principles

CIPAF have always support the celebration of Women's International Day on 8 March and the International Day against Violence against women on 25 November. Each year CIPAF publishes a "Quehaceres" edition, the institution main publication, for these important dates, with a distribution of thousands of copies.

6. Research Institute for Enhancing Women's Lives (Special; 2004)

PART I. Introduction:

Research Institute for Enhancing Women's Lives (RIEWL) was established in December 1999 and has dedicated itself to enhance and promote women's situation in society. On this basis, three sections conduct research, educational and advocacy programs on bio-psycho-social aspects of women's health. Its main goal is to encourage women's equal access to health, education and employment, particularly for those who are deprived of social and economic resources and thus are vulnerable to socio-psychological harm. Advocacy, education, research, empowerment of women, life skills, Millennium Development Goals, youth development, women studies, reproductive health and rights, gender-based violence, gender equality, men/boys' participation in gender equality are all among the key words that best describe RIEWL's work.

Expanded Areas of Activities: (a) While the Organization's broad aims and objectives remained the same, in April 2005, it received permit from Iran's Ministry of Science, Research and Technology to establish the Future Women's Health Research Center (FWHRC) for pursuing academic activities, through research, education, and publication in bio-psycho-social field; (b) In 2004, the organization asked for minor change in its Title in order to better reflects its activities and in 2006 the Non-Governmental Organization Committee approved that request and the previous name "Research Institute for Rehabilitation & Improvement of Women's Life" was changed to current one "Research Institute for Enhancing Women's Lives" – RIEWL; (c) In 2004, right after devastating earthquake, RIEWL established an interim office in Bam to Survey post-disaster and rehabilitation efforts in order to improve the living conditions of survivors.

Part II. Contribution of the Organization to the work of the United Nations

i) Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies: RIEWL participated in the "49th Commission on the Status of Women" at the United Nations Headquarters, New York on 28 February 2005, and lobbied for equal access to health and education for women in less-developed countries. RIEWL met with several NGOs during the meeting and cooperated in drafting NGOs proposals and suggestions to the Session.

Statement submitted by Research Institute for Enhancing Women's Lives, to the Commission on the Status of Women, 51st session, 26 February-9 March 2007. In that statement, RIEWL explained how it strove to empower women against gender-based violence, social discrimination and socio-psychological harm. Special attention was given for protecting girls at home and society against violence in forms of discrimination, negligence, forced labour, sexual abuse and trafficking. Yet, there are inadequacies in several fields and a coordinated action plan is necessary to be implemented by government and NGOs, particularly in deprived areas and for poor and vulnerable families.

ii) Cooperation with United Nations bodies and or specialized agencies:

RIEWL has contributed to the mandates of: United Nations Development Programme Office in Tehran, through being a member of NGOs National Committee on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), through being chair of Education and Research Committee of the Reproductive Health network; World Health Organization (WHO) Office in Tehran, through holding numerous workshops on Life Skills, and in 2006, translating and publishing, for the first time in Farsi, the WHO World Report on Violence and Health.

iii) Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Millennium Development Goals:

The organization contributed to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) through being elected as a member of NGO National Committee from 2004 to 2006, to coordinate and advance NGOs on Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women. In this time period, RIEWL hosted several meetings and workshops to promote MDGs in general and goal 3 in particular. RIEWL drafted NGO's Report to the United Nations on Goal 3 regarding empowerment of women in the Islamic Republic of Iran. To enhance its activities the organization coordinated with UNDP office in Tehran and actively participated in several relevant meetings initiated by it.

Major actions undertaken were the following:

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women:

- RIEWL has devised educational-research projects with participation of women and girls in an attempt to evaluate their awareness of gender equality and its impact on social lives of women. It has also initiated projects addressing men, to increase their awareness on gender-related practices and encourage their contribution to family responsibilities. RIEWL carried out practical research projects on the status of Iranian women regarding domestic violence, women's physical and mental health as well as gender equality and making the results available to the country's policy-makers and programmers. It has provided research findings, information, advice and recommendations to the National Committee to Abolish Violence against Women.

- A national conference on "The Condition of Prisoners and Women Inmates", held with participation of more than 450 academic and executive officials, lawyers, judges and journalists. Reviewing women inmates' situation and impacts of their imprisonment on their families particularly on female-headed households.

- Conducting ten roundtables with participation of experienced lawyers to review women's legal status and providing the results and the feedback to the Women's Fraction of the Sixth Majlis (Parliament) to push forward ratification of new women-related laws and modification of certain other laws.

- RIEWL has adopted life skills to address a variety of issues threatening the heath and well-being of women, children and youth. In this context, the Organization has published simplified educational brochures on life skills and distributing them among women from different walks of life. RIEWL has held educational and training workshops on different topics including communication skills, gender equality and empowerment of women for experts of ministries of education and health as well as Tehran municipality. It conducted 842 workshops on Life Skills, for Tehran municipality (2006-7) and 220 workshops for adolescent children, Ministry for Health and Education (2005), Teaching communication skills to more than 2000 teenagers and their parents, (2005) Teaching life skills and citizenship rights to employees of the healthy city headquarter (2005). It also conducted workshops on Life Skills for mothers and newly married women, Ministry for Health and Education (2005).

- The Organization has published educational books, brochures aiming to empower women and promote their social and educational status. These include: Translating and publishing
1- World Health Organization's "World Report on Violence and Health 2002" in 2006,
2- UNESCO books: "Influence of Culture on Women's Life" "Power of Culture" Compiling and publishing: "Facilitating Team Work", Iranian Women in the Course of Development "What Does Stress Mean?", "What is Premenstrual Syndrome (PMS)?", "Depression and What All Women Should Know About It?", "Life Skills for Youngsters, Parents".

Goal 5: Improve maternal health, universal access to reproductive health: In order to more effectively address the challenges facing Iranian women, RIEWL in close collaboration with UNFPA office in Tehran initiated the network of relevant NGOs in the field of reproductive health. To this aim, RIEWL For two years, 2005-2007 made various efforts and then was elected by the Assembly of NGOs as the chair for Education and Research Committee. In this capacity, the organization held several meetings to draft programs and initiatives to improve reproductive health in the Islamic Republic of Iran. As one of those initiatives, in
4-6 September 2007, the organization held an inclusive workshop for NGOs on major concepts of Reproductive Health, and addressed the reproductive processes, functions and system at all stages of life. The organization has also designed programs for a better understanding of family planning, improving reproductive and sexual health, and reducing girls' vulnerability to HIV/AIDS and other STDs.

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases: Two educational workshops on HIV/AIDS Preventive Measures, one in cooperation with UNAIDS and the other in cooperation with the Center for Women Participation. Teaching the necessary skills to women to allow them to exert their reproductive rights in order to prevent further spread of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). Holding different workshops and seminars on HIV/AIDS, drug abuse, improvement of daily life skills. Holding a workshop for health Experts of Afghanistan, on how to deal with drug addicts as well as those suffering from HIV/AIDS,

ii) Activities in Support of Global Principles: Two national conferences in commemoration of World Family Day, and a national conference on the occasion of Women's Day. Holding a one day workshop on "Women and Suicide" in order to introduce preventive measures and increase

awareness of women facing harmful situation, on the occasion of the World Mental Health with particular focus on suicide, 10 October 2006. Holding an international conference entitled, "Th Culture of Democracy and the Role of NGOs in Iran" in cooperation with Denmark and United Nations Associations in the Islamic Republic of Iran (22 February and 11 March 2005).

United Nations E/C.2/2009/2/Add.20

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
9 March 2009

Original: English

Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
2009 resumed session
18-27 May 2009

Quadrennial reports for the period 2004-2007 submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council through the Secretary-General pursuant to Council resolution 1996/31*

Note by the Secretary-General

Contents

		Page
1.	Center for International Rehabilitation	2
2.	EarthRights International	4
3.	International Automobile Federation	5
4.	International Federation of Beekeepers Associations	7
5.	National Council of Women of Thailand	8
6.	Rehab Group	10

* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

09-25919 (E) 020409

Please recycle

1. Center for International Rehabilitation (Special; 2004)

Part 1: Introduction

The Center for International Rehabilitation (CIR) is a Chicago-based, not-for-profit organization that develops research, education and advocacy pro- grams to improve the lives of people with disabilities internationally. Founded in 1996 by Dr. William Kennedy Smith, the CIR operates in collaboration with the renowned Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago and Northwestern University. Through innovative engineering projects, capacity-building education programs, interactive online tools, and disability rights advocacy with the International Disability Rights Monitor, the CIR reaches out to individuals and communities across the globe.

Part II: Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

i. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conference and other United Nations meetings

3rd Ad Hoc Session on the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities 24 May – 4 June 2004. CIR attended the Ad-Hoc meeting to raise awareness about the rights of people with disabilities.

4th Ad Hoc Session on the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities 23 August – 3 September 2004. CIR attended the Ad-Hoc meeting to raise awareness about disability rights.

Side event to the 4th Ad Hoc Session on the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities 24 August 2004. CIR hosted a briefing on the findings of the International Disability Rights Monitor (Americas) and hosted a panel of speakers who included Ambassador Luis Gallegos, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee; Sheika Hessa Al Thani, Special Rapporteur on Disability; Dr. William Kennedy Smith, Chairman and Founder of the Center for International Rehabilitation; IDRM International Coordinator.

5th Ad Hoc Session on the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities 24 January – 4 February 2005. CIR attended the Ad-Hoc meeting to raise awareness about the rights of people with disabilities.

6th Session on the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities 1-12 August 2005. CIR attended the Ad-Hoc meeting to raise awareness about the rights of people with disabilities.

Side event to the 6th Ad Hoc Session on the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities 8 August 2005. CIR hosted a briefing on the findings of the International Disability Rights Monitor (Asia)

7th Session on the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities 16 January – 3 February 2006. Representatives of the CIR attended the Ad-Hoc meeting to raise awareness about the rights of people with disabilities.

United Nations Roundtable on Older Persons in the 2004 Tsunami. United Nations Headquarters, New York, February 13–16. The CIR International Coordinator made a presentation at the Roundtable on 'Disability and Early Tsunami Relief Efforts in India, Indonesia and Thailand'.

Side event to the 7th Ad Hoc Session on the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities 2 February 2006. The CIR organized a themed side event on improving accessibility: Governmental and Civil Society perspectives.

8th Session on the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities 14– 25 August 2006. Representatives of the CIR attended the Ad-Hoc meeting to raise awareness about the rights of people with disabilities.

ii. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

Project undertaken in conjunction with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Disability, which evaluated the availability and accessibility of critical services for people with disabilities during the phases of relief and reconstruction after the December 2004 Tsunami. The product of this joint initiative was an IDRM thematic report, *IDRM: Disability and Early Tsunami Relief Efforts in India, Indonesia and Thailand*, was released in September 2005. The report provides a look at how governments, international relief organizations and local disability organizations responded to the needs of people with disabilities in the aftermath of the tsunami

iii. Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of internationally agreed

Development goals, in particular, the Millennium Development Goals.
Activities in Support of Global Principles

The International Disability Rights Monitor is recognized internationally as a landmark report in documenting the rights of people with disabilities. The project has a global focus and since its establishment, it has been strategically operated in parallel to the negotiations on the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities. United Nations Educational, Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Bank have quoted its work. Listed below is a series of publications and a website resource which is used by international disability advocates:

International Disability Rights Monitor series of reports: (i) IDRM: Regional Report of Europe in September 2007; (ii) IDRM: *Regional Report of Asia* in August 2005; (iii) IDRM: Disability and Early Tsunami Relief Efforts in India, Indonesia and Thailand in September 2005; (iv) IDRM: Regional Report of the Americas in August of 2004. Website Resource: www.idrmnet.org

2. EarthRights International (Special; 2004)

PART I: Introduction

EarthRights International (ERI) is a nongovernmental, nonprofit organization dedicated to combining the power of law and the power of people in defense of human rights and environmental protection. ERI both represents and partners with individuals and communities who are victims, survivors, or at risk of human rights and environmental abuses, most of which occur during natural resource exploitation efforts such as logging, oil and gas development, mining, and water diversion projects. ERI assists local communities by enhancing their capacity to raise their own voices to protect their rights and homelands and prevent harms before they occur. When violations do occur, ERI and its local partners use international, regional and domestic legal systems, and public education and advocacy, to demand accountability. In addition, by working directly with the communities, and bringing media attention to individual stories and key cases, ERI helps to put a human face on pressing human rights and environmental issues.

ERI focuses on enhancing the capacity of grassroots human rights defenders through the EarthRights Schools for Myanmar and the Mekong region, and through additional earth rights legal trainings in the Amazon region and Southeast Asia. Our litigation and legal work, and related media and communications activities, aim at transforming the on-the-ground information we obtain from our local community partners into effective legal strategies and advocacy programs in the United States of America and internationally.

PART II: Contribution of the Organization to the work of the United Nations

The primary contribution that EarthRights International has made to the work of the United Nations in the report period of 2004-2007 has been to participate in the work of Professor John Ruggie, the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) on Human Rights and Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises.

This work by ERI was in direct follow up to the adoption by the United Nations Sub-Commission on the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights, in August 2003, of the United Nations Norms on the Responsibility of Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises with Regard to Human Rights. ERI has supported the Norms and applauded the United Nations efforts to pursue establishing standards in this area. ERI, along with its civil society partners, prepared a *Joint Civil Society Statement on the Global Compact and Corporate Accountability*, which was submitted to the United Nations Secretary-General on 23 June 2004, urging him and the countries of the United Nations, to support the Norms and to re-design the Global Compact to become an instrument to ensure real corporate accountability. The United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNHCR), at its 60th session (15 March-23 April 2004), requested the United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights to do follow up work related to the Norms. It was on this basis that Prof. Ruggie was appointed SRSG.

ERI presented its first submission to the Special Representative – *Earth Rights Abuses by Corporations in Burma (collective summary and recommendations)* - on 10 November 2005. ERI has also been an active participant in the International Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR-Net), Corporate Accountability Working Group. As a part of this participation, ERI helped to prepare the *Joint NGO Submission* presented to Prof. Ruggie at the United Nations Consultation on Human Rights and the Extractive Industry, held in Geneva, 10-11 November 2005. The joint submission highlighted the influence and power of transnational corporations throughout the world, and the inadequate means currently available to ensure oversight of their activities. It also included a number of case studies, showing patterns of violations and gaps in the protection of human rights, including environmental and indigenous peoples' rights, which have taken place in a number of countries. (Thirteen national case studies were included.) The draft submission was circulated at the consultation, with the final version being given to Prof. Ruggie at a consultation with NGOs in London on 9 December 2005.

ERI attended the UNHCR 62nd session in Geneva, Switzerland, 13-27 March 2006 to present testimony on corporate abuses of human rights. ERI was one of 92 NGO signatories to a *letter sent to the SRSG*, on 18 May 2006, to express appreciation for, and submit comments to, his interim report on Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, which he submitted to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights on 22 February 2006. ERI presented an *Asian Civil Society Statement*, signed by 21 NGOs, to the SRSG at a regional consultation on Human Rights and Supply Chain Management, held in Bangkok, on 26-27 June 2006. This statement urged the Special Representative to expand the scope of his inquiries regarding corporations and human rights, and to support codification of the international standards for transnational corporations and human rights.

ERI submitted its second solo report to Prof. Ruggie – *The International Standard for Corporate Aiding and Abetting Liability* - on 11 July 2006.

ERI continued to follow the work of the Special Representative, in pursuit of his extended mandate, and anticipates continuing to provide submissions to further, and facilitate, his work.

3. International Automobile Federation (Special; 1972)

Part 1 – Introduction

i. Aims and Purposes

Founded in 1904, with headquarters in Paris, the FIA is a world-wide, non-profit organization regrouping 219 automobile and touring clubs, motoring organisations associations or federations from 130 countries across the five continents. Its member clubs represent over 100 million motorists and their families. It represents the interests of motorists and tourists in general; it is also the governing body for world motor sport, and as such establishes the rules for international automobile

competitions. As an organization of such wide scope and importance its opinions carry weight and it enjoys considerable prestige at international level.

Through the activities of its affiliated members at national level and its permanent cooperation with intergovernmental bodies at international level (UNO, EU, Council of Europe, ECMT) the FIA works to promote freedom of mobility through affordable, safe, and clean motoring; to defend the rights of consumers when travelling by automobile; to support harmonisation of rules with respect to automobile manufacture and to automobile use (infrastructures, traffic rules, road signs and signals); to protect road users from abusive taxation and restrictive legislation; and to promote "intelligent" tourism which aims, through education and information made available to FIA affiliated members and to the public at large, to limit tourism which can damage the environment and to encourage tourism which is sensitive to national, regional and local cultures.

Other objectives include the management of a system of mutual services between its affiliated member organizations for the benefit of their members when travelling abroad, and to make recommendations and disseminate information relative to international motoring and travel, sustainable mobility, and environmental protection.

The FIA has worked to support tourist travel, particularly with regard to the barriers restricting movement across national borders. In conjunction with the Alliance Internationale de Tourisme (AIT) the FIA produces and administers internationally recognized documents which facilitate international travel and tourism, and co-manages a customs document network which ensures the correct and efficient use of the Carnets de Passages en Douanes and triptyques through the joint AIT/FIA CPD Network.

i. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters.

The FIA has enjoyed special consultative status with the United Nations since 1972, and continued to participate in the activities of this organization over the past four years. It has been dedicated to representing the rights of motoring organisations and motor car users throughout the world via campaigns and activities that defend their interests. On issues such as safety, mobility, the environment and consumer law, the FIA actively promotes the interests of motorists at the United Nations, as well as through other international bodies.

The FIA takes an active part in numerous meetings of various United Nations Working Groups, within the framework of the Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UN/ECE) in Geneva. Each year, the FIA attended the plenary session of the Inland Transport Committee (ECE/TRANS), when the short and long-term guidelines and work programs were established for this Committee and its subsidiary bodies. Over the past four years, the FIA has focused on the Committee's work on environment and road safety questions. Written and/or oral reports were frequently submitted on subjects under discussion.

The FIA participated on a regular basis in the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP 29) as well as its subsidiary working group on passive safety (WP29/GRSP) which, among others, recently undertook to recast ECE Regulation 44 on Child Restraints, first drafted in 1981; and it's Group of Experts on Pollution and Energy (WP29/GRPE).
The FIA was actively involved in the revisions of the United Nations Customs Conventions on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles (1954), Commercial Road Vehicles (1956), and the Convention of Road Traffic (1968), and continued to contribute to keeping these conventions up to date. To this end, the FIA was present for meetings of the Working Party on Customs Questions Affecting Transport (WP 30).

The FIA participated on a regular basis in the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP 1), the Working Party on Road Transport (SC 1), the Working Party on Inland Water Transport (SC 3) and the Ad Hoc Meeting on Implementation of the Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR).

The FIA closely followed the activities of other international organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) that share a common interest in tourism, transport, mobility and environmental matters, and keeps its members informed of related work carried out by the United Nations. The FIA attached a great deal of importance to the work carried on by the United Nations and its specialized agencies, and continued to play an active role in that work in areas which fall within its fields of competence, notably those of mobility, motoring, road safety, transport, tourism, environmental protection, energy conservation, and consumer protection.

4. International Federation of Beekeepers Associations (Special; 1972)

Part 1 - Introduction

Apimondia exists to promote scientific, technical, ecological, social and economic apicultural development in all countries and the cooperation of beekeepers' associations, scientific bodies and of individuals involved in apiculture worldwide. It also aims to put into practice every initiative that can contribute to improving apiculture practice and to rendering the obtained products profitable.

No major changes occurred in the Federation's Statutes. However, as a consequence of the Statutes amendments adopted in 2003 with regard to the membership, the number of the members as well as their geographical distribution markedly increased (75 members representing 59 countries in 2007 compared to 47 members representing 43 countries in 2003). This entailed a far more widespread reach of the Federation.

During the period 2004-2007 Apimondia's activities focused on developing and carrying out the resolutions adopted by the Apimondia General Assembly meetings held in the 39th and 40th Apimondia Congresses, held respectively in Dublin, Ireland, on 22 August 2005 and Melbourne, Australia, on 10 September 2007, in particular: (i) promotion of fair trade of honey worldwide and assistance to small-scale African beekeepers to develop their access to international markets;

(ii) distribution of information on the role of bees in the pollination process and on the management of bees for use in commercial pollination; (iii) collation and provision of information on the interactions of managed bees with the environment; (iv) harmonisation of management procedures for the preservation of bee product quality.

Contribution of the organisation to the work of the United Nations

Co-operation with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) covered following activities:

- meetings with top management representatives of Agricultural Services – Technology Unit responsible for beekeeping activities to define joint initiatives aimed at extending FAO involvement in various countries through the implementation of new beekeeping projects. Invitation to FAO officer to Apimondia International Congress and his presentation delivered during plenary sessions in 2005 (Ireland);
- continued monitoring on Codex Alimentarius activities after honey standard revision phase closed and meetings with FAO senior officers to establish scope for creating new working groups for bee products other than honey and define standards for same and
- organisation of joint workshop on "Trans-Disciplinary Research and Communication Paradigms for Rural Development in Central and Eastern Europe" in Titignano, Italy, 12-16 September 2005.

Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations Meetings

Apimondia could not participate in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies in major conferences during the reporting period due to the very limited budget and staff availability.

Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Many of the activities and events carried out by the Federation in this period, in line with the deliberations adopted by the Apimondia General Assembly, were focussed at promoting development in the less favoured regions of the world in order to alleviate poverty, foster food security and strengthen sustainable livelihoods in line with the Un..ed Nations MDGs.

5. National Council of Women of Thailand (Special; 2000)

Part I. Introduction

i. Aims, purposes and main course of action of the organization.

The aims of The National Council of Women of Thailand (NCWT) are to: (i) act as a center for promoting and supporting activities of women organizations through out the nation; (ii) study and

exchange opinions with other local and international women organizations in order to strengthen the social welfare, good understanding, and well-being for all human, especially women; (iii) find the ways to improve quality of life, status, and ability of Thai women as well as to eliminate problems hindering the development of women or women organizations; and (iv) cooperate and coordinate with government and private organizations locally and internationally in performing work that is beneficial to women and society.

Part II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

i) Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings.

The representative of NCWT attended the following events: (i) International Day of Peace, September from 2006 to 2008, United Nations Bangkok, Thailand; (ii) World Food Day 17 October 2006, United Nations Bangkok, Thailand; (iii) 51st Session of the Commission on the Status of Women 26 February – 9 March 2007, United Nations Headquarters, New York (as an observer); (iv) The Gender Mainstreaming: What it means and the way forward Workshop 25 April 2007, United Nations Development Programme, Bangkok, Thailand. (v) Workshop on The International Day of Non-Violence 2 October 2007, United Nations Bangkok, Thailand.

ii) Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters.

None

iii) Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of internationally agreed development goals

Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Goal 6 - Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Disease:

Target 6. A: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS
ACTIONS:

Secondary-level students with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS = 2,000

Activities in Support of Global Principles

International Women's Day was observed each March 8 of year by NCWT. The organization celebrated and awarded 10 Laudable Women in the labour force. Special lectures were selected for the event.

NCWT organized a seminar on the end of violence against women (VAW) in November of every year. More than 600 female students were educated and trained a self-defense course. Related information on VAW situations and campaigns in Thailand were acknowledged in the seminar.

6. Rehab Group
(Special; 1996)

Part I – Introduction

Rehab Group is a leading, international, non-governmental organisation dedicated to delivering high quality, person-centred health and social care, training, education, employment, rehabilitation and commercial services to people with disabilities, older people and others who are marginalized. Since 2003, Rehab Group has experienced considerable expansion. In addition to its services in Ireland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Group now has services in Poland and the Netherlands and since 2003 the number of people benefiting from its services has increased from 40,000 to 56,000 people per year.

The Rehab Group has placed significant importance on its Special Consultative status with the United Nations and is committed to reflecting the goals and objectives of the United Nations in its work. It promotes the United Nations Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the United Nations Standard Rules and the achievement of the goals of the United Nations Human Rights Conventions.

Part II – Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations
Participation in the work of the Economic and social Council and its subsidiary bodies/and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings

- Over the period of this report the Group took preparatory steps to take part in Ireland's reports to the Committee on Human Rights in respect of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) in respect of the third report on the ICESCR. Participated in activities which took place in Ireland included: (i) Consultative seminar facilitated by the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs on Ireland's Third Periodic Report under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 1966; (ii) Seminar hosted by Amnesty Ireland in preparation the development of Ireland's third report on the ICESCR.

- During the period in question, Rehab Group played a strong role in the negotiation of the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities. Activities included: (i) following from its attendance at an earlier meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee, Rehab Group sent a representative to the 3rd Session of the Ad Hoc Committee on the drafting of the Convention in New York in May/June 2004. Participation included discussions with NGOs and state parties; (ii) In April 2004, a seminar was held in Dublin to raise awareness among people with disabilities of the importance of the Convention. This event was sponsored and organised by Rehab Group in association with the Rehabilitation International Ireland, the Irish Human Rights Commission and the Irish Forum of People with Disabilities; (iii) Through its membership of the Irish Joint Foreign Affairs/NGO Human

Rights Committee, Rehab Group raised awareness at national government level of the issues of importance to the organisation in the development of the Convention. Consultation was meaningful and regular and was particularly valuable in 2004 when the Ireland held the presidency of the European Union (EU) and was chairing the EU delegation to negotiations on the Convention; (iv) Rehab Group was at the forefront of the media and lobbying campaign to encourage Ireland to be one of the first countries to sign the Convention in 2007. Ireland subsequently signed the Convention on the 30 March 2007; (v) Participation in the vibrant NGO debate in relation to the Convention; (vi) Rehab Group continued to lobby the Irish government to make the relevant changes to national legislation to make ratification of the Convention possible.

(ii) Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialised agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

- The International Classification of Functioning (ICF) is the World Health Organisation's (WHO) system of classification of health and health-related domains which incorporated medical, functional, social and environmental factors in its scope of analysis. Rehab Group participated in a learning group as part of the European Platform for Rehabilitation (EPR) which aimed to increase knowledge about the application of ICF to the provision of services to people with intellectual disabilities. A 'Core Set' of 65 items relating to mild or moderate intellectual disability were selected from the ICF following a comprehensive consultation process with professionals in the field. These items were then formulated as questions to create a tool to assess the needs of people with disabilities. The tool was then piloted with a number of adults with mild or moderate intellectual disability in a resource centre promoting community and independent living in the North East of Ireland using ICF rating scales.

(iii) Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of internationally agreed development goals, in particular, the Millennium Development Goals

- In 2004, the Irish Government introduced its National Disability Strategy following significant consultation with the disability sector. As detailed in previous reports, during the dialogue which preceded the publication of the Strategy, Rehab Group worked to ensure that the needs of people with disabilities were central. Angela Kerins, Rehab Group Chief Executive and Chairperson of the National Disability Authority is now Chairperson of the Disability Stakeholders Group which continues to ensure that the voice of the disability sector is heard in the implementation of the Strategy and is Vice Chairperson of the National Disability Strategy Stakeholders Monitoring Group which oversees the implementation of the Strategy. The Rehab Group is also directly represented on consultative forums which are facilitated at the level of government department.

- Rehab Group is a member of the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs facilitated NGO Human Rights Committee which ensures that Irish and international NGOs can take part in the human rights debate and can influence the Irish Government's decision making process in relation to international human rights policy particularly Ireland's activities in overcoming human rights and humanitarian abuses in the developing world. Rehab attends committee meetings four times a year as well as a national Annual Forum on Human Rights.

- In late 2007, Rehab commenced planning for the Rehab Group/Workability International Grant scheme, a one year pilot grant scheme to fund new and innovative projects that support the initiation of enterprise and/ or staff training and personal development projects, for people with disabilities, within sheltered and supported employment settings in developing economies.

International Partnerships

Through the development of international partnerships, Rehab continues its international work to promote best practice in the development of services to people with disabilities and to advocate for the rights of people with disabilities throughout the world.

- Rehab Group holds the presidency of Workability International (WI). Over the period of the report, WI made substantial efforts to extend its support globally to a larger number of organisations particularly those in Africa and Asia. This has allowed the organisation to ensure that organisations across the globe benefit from membership of the world's largest body representing providers of work and employment services to people with disabilities drawing on the expertise and support of other members. In 2007, Workability embarked on a new initiative, Workability Europe Business (WEB) which works to promote the creation of meaningful jobs for people with disabilities and to develop central procurement policies which ensure the best possible use of resources in companies which employ people with disabilities. Workability is a member in the United Nations Global Compact and a partner in the World Bank Global Partnership for Disability.

- Rehab Group is also a member of the European Platform for Rehabilitation (EPR), a network of leading European providers of rehabilitation services. In 2005, Rehab hosted EPR's annual conference in Dublin, entitled *Rehabilitation Pays* to promote the value of early intervention services for people who require rehabilitation. The conference was attended by a wide range of international and Irish speakers.

- Rehab Group often facilitates international study/exchange visits of groups from throughout the world with an interest in disability services. Over the period of this Report, Rehab hosted delegations from Finland, Hungary, Belgium, the Netherlands, France, Denmark, New Zealand, Australia, Germany, Romania, Iceland, Sweden, Denmark, the Russian Federation, Taiwan Province of China and Hong Kong, China.